

# **TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA**

## **TOWN COMMISSION**

### **SPECIAL WORKSHOP**

#### **SUMMARY MINUTES**

Datura Avenue Portal

**Saturday, August 17, 2013**

**9:00 A.M.**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Roseann Minnet, Vice Mayor Scot Sasser, Commissioner Stuart Dodd, Commissioner Chris Vincent, and Public Information Officer Steve d'Oliveira.

#### **2. DISCUSSION ITEM**

- a) Visit to and possible discussion of the Biorock Artificial Reef Project and Snorkel Trail

The purpose of the Saturday morning workshop was to snorkel the Town's Biorock Artificial Reef Project and snorkel trail. Commissioner Mark Brown was out of town and could not attend.

The four Commissioners met at Gold Coast Scuba, 259 Commercial Blvd., at 8:30 a.m. A briefing on the snorkel trip started at 8:41 a.m. and was conducted by Dave Hoffert, a master scuba diver trainer and one of Gold Coast's three co-owners. Also attending the Gold Coast briefing was John Boutin, Jake Sasser, the Vice Mayor's son, as well as Steve d'Oliveira, the Town's Public Information Officer.

After the safety briefing, the Commissioners headed over to the Datura Avenue portal, where a number of divers were getting ready to make beach dives. The commissioners were met by Tom Goreau, President of the Global Coral Reef Alliance, who created the Town's Biorock project. Also at the portal were divers from Vone Research, the non-profit group that maintains and helps monitor the Biorock Project.

Some of the Commissioners were interviewed by Steve Waters, the *Sun-Sentinel's* Outdoors Writer, and Judy Vik, who covers the Town for the *Pompano Pelican*. Mr. Goreau then briefed the Commissioners about the Biorock project and also provided a summary of the world's coral reefs and how they developed over time.

The Commissioners entered the ocean around 9:15 a.m. In addition to the safety divers from Vone Research, the Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) had a beach patrol firefighter patrolling nearby on a VFD Jet Ski. Fire Chief Judson Hopping and another

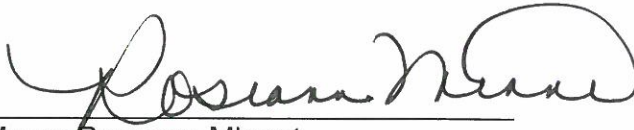
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firefighter were also stationed on the beach during the snorkel trip as a precautionary safety measure. The Commissioners snorkeled out to the Biorock Reef Project for about 45 to 60 minutes. On their way back in, they also snorkeled over to the Town's snorkel trail.

Back on shore at the portal, the Commissioners informally talked about doing more artificial reef projects and making the Datura portal more diver-friendly. Dave Hoffert said he knew of some special benches for divers that would make it easier for them to put on their gear. He promised to send a picture of the benches to the Town. Adding another shower at the portal was also suggested. The Commissioners then rinsed their gear and dried off.

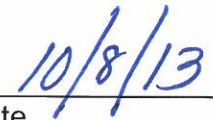
**3. ADJOURNMENT**

All Commissioners left Datura Avenue portal by 10:30 a.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Roseann Minnet

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk Vanessa Castillo

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date